

Where to Start?



Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) or “Security Surveys” are a service the Newport News Police Department offers for residential and commercial properties.

At your request, a Community Resource Officer will conduct an assessment and offer tips regarding your property.

For further information or to request an assessment, please contact your local precinct and ask for your Community Resource Officer:

Central Precinct 591-4978

North Precinct 369-3105

South Precinct 926-3001

*CPTED assessments of properties and neighborhoods **are not** intended to make them crime-proof. However the possibility of crime should be reduced if CPTED strategies are properly applied and maintained. CPTED recommendations should complement other traditional forms of crime prevention, such as security systems, neighborhood watch groups and target-hardening techniques.*

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CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH ENVIROMENTAL DESIGN (CPTED)

*Improving the
Quality of Life*



Newport News Police Department
www.nngov.com/police



Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, or

CPTED (pronounced sep-ted), is based upon the belief that: *“the proper design and effective use of the built environment can lead to a reduction in the fear and incidence of crime and an improvement in the quality of life.”*

How CPTED Works

CPTED promotes design principles that encourage safe behavior and reduces the opportunity for crime to occur.

Four inter-related principles make up CPTED:

- Natural Surveillance
- Natural Access Control
- Territorial Reinforcement
- Maintenance



NATURAL SURVEILLANCE

Creating environments where there are plenty of opportunities for people engaged in their normal behavior to observe the space around them. By designing the placement of physical features, activities and people in such a way to maximize visibility, natural surveillance occurs. A potential criminal is less likely to attempt a crime if he or she is at risk of being observed. At the same time, we are likely to feel safer when we can see and be seen.



NATURAL ACCESS CONTROL

Most criminal intruders will try to find a way into an area where they will not be easily observed. Limiting access and increasing natural surveillance keeps them out or marks them as an intruder. By selectively placing entrances, exits, fencing, lighting and landscape to control the flow or limit access, natural access control occurs. The goal with this principle is not necessarily to keep intruders out, but to direct the flow of people while decreasing the opportunity for crime.



TERRITORIAL REINFORCEMENT

An environment designed to clearly define private areas does two things. First, it creates a sense of ownership. Owners have a vested interest and are more likely to challenge intruders or report them to the police. Second, the sense of owned space creates an environment where “strangers” or “intruders” stand out and are more easily identified. By using pavement, signs, and landscape to express owners and define public, semi-public and private space, territorial reinforcement occurs. Potential trespassers perceive this control and are thereby discouraged.



MAINTENANCE

CPTED and the “Broken Window Theory” suggests that one broken window or nuisance, if allowed to exist, will lead to others and ultimately to the decline of an entire neighborhood. Neglected and poorly maintained properties are breeding grounds for criminal activity.

